



United States  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

Office of Solid  
Waste and  
Emergency Response

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Secretariat of Environment,  
Natural Resources, and  
Fishing

# Contingency Planning and Emergency Response Workgroup

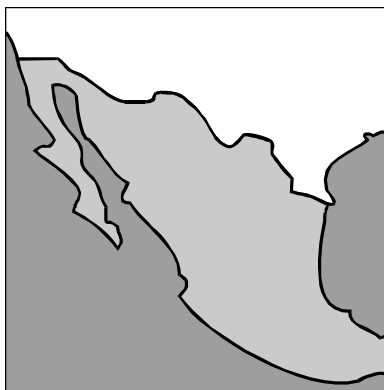
## Proposed 1997/1998 Implementation Plan

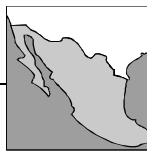


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# **Contingency Planning and Emergency Response Workgroup**

Proposed 1997/1998 Implementation Plan





## CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE WORKGROUP PROPOSED 1997/1998 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

**Project:** Technical Assistance Workshops for Sister Cities

**Purpose and Objectives:** To support the sister cities in the development of their contingency plans and to discuss the plans and joint responses to chemical emergencies of the sister cities.

**Funding:** This will be accomplished with the participation of federal, state, and local authorities in U.S. and Mexico.

**Participants:** Federal, state, and local authorities in U.S. and Mexico with the responsibility for responding to chemical emergencies.

**Description:** Technical assistance workshops for sister cities have taken place in Mexicali/Calexico; Reynosa/McAllen; and Piedras Negras/Eagle Pass. These workshops were conducted by the International City and County Management Association under a cooperative agreement with EPA. The objective of these workshops was to identify problems in the development of contingency plans for chemical emergency response and to work to resolve those problems and develop a joint sister city contingency plan. For 1997, the focus will be on sister cities issues relating to the completion of their plans. In 1996, a workgroup was formed that included a part of Texas and all Tamaulipas, in which a document was obtained that identifies the existing problems with the transborder crossing of personnel and equipment in this region and also proposes certain actions to break these barriers. In 1997, this document can serve as a basis for other regions that also need to address the impediments to mutual planning and response between both sister cities. Meetings will be scheduled for groupings of sister cities to address issues which have been identified through the mutual process of developing each sister city plan.

**Relevant Border XXI Objectives:** #1, 5, 8, and 13.

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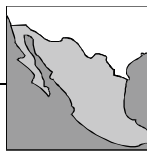
**Project:** Inventory of Resources for Emergency Attention in Mexican Sister Cities

**Purpose and Objectives:** Gather information for each of the remaining sister cities in Mexico with regard to organizations, personnel, equipment, etc. related to contingency planning and emergency response.

**Funding:** PROFEPA.

**Participants:** PROFEPA and Mexican sister cities.

**Description:** Development of an inventory of resources for response to emergencies for each sister city in Mexico. The inventories will allow current evaluation of states and will provide information during an emergency. In 1996, inventories were developed for sister cities in the states of Baja California and Chihuahua. The inventories will be continued for the rest of the cities in Mexico (Sonora, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas). As standard practice, these inventories exist in all U.S. sister cities.



**Relevant Border XXI Objectives:** #1, 2, and 5.

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**Project:** Training and Translation of CAMEO

**Purpose and Objectives:** Translate CAMEO into Spanish and identify a strategy for the distribution and training of CAMEO in the sister cities.

**Funding:** EPA.

**Participants:** PROFEPA and EPA.

**Description:** The CAMEO system can manage information dealing with hazardous substances, industries, emergency response groups, maps, etc. This will aid in the identification of the chemical risks in the sister cities and, on occasion, will support in the process of making decisions in an emergency situation. This system has been developed for Windows and will be translated into Spanish. A pilot project will be carried out in various sister cities to test its utility.

**Relevant Border XXI Objectives:** #1, 5, and 13.

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**Project:** Joint Contingency Plan (JCP)

**Purpose and Objectives:** Formalize the U.S./Mexico JCP, which will serve as the basis for coordination at the federal and state levels.

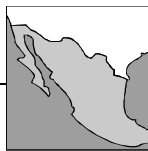
**Funding:** This project will be accomplished through the contributions of all the participants.

**Participants:** Joint Response Team (JRT) and the 14 pairs of sister cities.

**Description:** The final version of the JCP was revised by the JRT. It is being prepared for signature by the management of SEMARNAP and EPA. This plan will be used for the development of local plans by the fourteen sister cities.

**Relevant Border XXI Objectives:** #1.

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**Project:** Exercise the Joint Contingency Plan (JCP)

**Purpose and Objectives:** Conduct communication simulations of the JCP to test the functioning, detect problems in the sequence of notification, and involve and inform the appropriate participants.

**Funding:** This project will be supported by all the U.S. and Mexican participants.

**Participants:** The Joint Response Team (federal, state, and the local participation of the 14 pairs of sister cities).

**Description:** A pair of sister cities will be chosen, and then the appropriate groups and individuals will convene to determine the scenario and date for the simulation. A schedule for four simulations will be developed by September 1997. One of these will be a full scale exercise, while the others will focus primarily on the communications between the federal, state, and local levels.

**Relevant Border XXI Objectives:** #1.

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**Project:** Follow-up on Recommendations of the Transboundary Mobilization of Personnel and Equipment Workgroup

**Purpose and Objectives:** To examine the recommendations of the workgroup and ensure attention to areas relating to liability are appropriately referred.

**Funding:** This project will be supported by all the U.S. and Mexican participants.

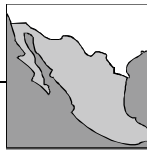
**Participants:** Federal, state, and the local participation of the 14 pairs of sister cities.

**Description:** Formation of the U.S./Mexico JRT Workgroup on Transboundary Mobilization of Personnel and Equipment was a workplan item in 1996/1997. The Workgroup convened its first meeting in July 1996 and held a total of four additional meetings. In the initial meetings, the Workgroup brainstormed to identify all possible barriers to rapid border crossing, and then identified four key barriers and four secondary barriers on which to focus their attention. For each barrier, the Workgroup identified the factors that make it a barrier and then provided recommendations for possible resolution. For 1997/1998, these recommendations will be studied and appropriate measures taken, ensuring involvement at the local level.

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**Project:** U.S./Mexico Notification Procedures

**Purpose and Objectives:** Develop rapid and effective procedures for environmental emergencies and create the Centro de Orientacion para Atencion de Emergencias Ambientales en Mexico (Mexican National Response Center).



**Funding:** This center will be funded by PROFEPA.

**Participants:** PROFEPA, EPA, and National Response Center (U.S.).

**Description:** The U.S. NRC is sending the notification for chemical accidents that occur along the U.S. border area to the Mexican cochair of the JRT. Otherwise, the incidents happen in the Mexican border area have been reported to the U.S. cochair. Mexico is establishing the Center for Emergencies to facilitate the rapid notification to all the appropriate authorities along the U.S./Mexico border. To help with this effort, EPA arranged for a delegation from PROFEPA to visit the U.S. NRC, CHEMTREC, and other facilities. EPA is also exploring options for training of Mexican officials at the NRC.

**Relevant Border XXI Objectives:** #1, 2, and 6.

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